IN THE SPECIFICATION-

Please amend the specification as follows:

Applicant presents the following two replacement paragraphs:

[0001] This is a continuation-in-part of copending application Serial No. 09/557,349 which was filed on April 25, 2000 and issued as United States Patent No. 6,372,250 on April 16, 2001.

[0039]The therapeutic gene which is encapsulated within the liposome can be any of the common therapeutic genes which are used to express therapeutic and diagnostic agents. Exemplary therapeutic genes include brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) for treatment of neurodegenerative disease, stroke, or brain trauma; tyrosine hydroxylase and/or aromatic amino acid decarboxylase for Parkinson's disease; β-glucuronidase; hexosaminidase A; herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase or genes encoding antisense RNA to the epidemal growth factor receptor for treatment of brain tumors; lysosomal storage disorder replacement enzymes for Tay-Sachs and other lysosomal storage disorders; gene encoding antisense RNA for the treatment of the cerebral component of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Eye-specific therapeutic genes include opsin protein of rhodopsin (RHO), cyclic GMP phosophodiesterase α-subunit (PDE6A) or β-subunit (PDE6B), the alpha subunit of the rod cyclic nucleotide gated channel (CNGA1), retinal pigmented epithelium-specific 65 kD protein gene (RPE65), retinal binding protein 1 gene (RLBP1), ATP binding casette retina gene (ABCR), peripherin/retinal degeneration slow gene ~~RDS~~, rod outer segment membrane protein 1 gene (ROM1),and arrestin (SAG), which are all known to be mutated in RP. In addition, other genes are mutated in RP-related disorders, including alpha-transducin (GNAT1), rhodopsin kinase (RHOK), guanylate cyclase activator 1A (GUCA1A), retina specific guanylate cyclase (GUCY2D), the alpha subunit of the cone cyclic nucleotide gated cation channel (CNGA3), and cone opsin genes such as blue cone protein gene (BCP),

green cone protein gene (GCP), and red cone protein gene (RCP), which are mutated in certain forms of color blindness.